



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Mississippi
Department of
Human Services:
CCDF
Newsletter

Vol 1/Issue 6
Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016

This newsletter will provide biweekly updates as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan is being implemented.

The MDHS Division of Early Childhood Care and Development (DECCD) would like to express its deepest gratitude to child care providers for their commitment to meeting requirements of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act by registering online and attending one of the 15 health and safety informational sessions offered by community colleges across the state.

Last Call for Required Health and Safety Education

On Friday, September 30, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex, one final health and safety session will be offered to child care providers seeking to meet the new federal requirement for participation in the Child Care Payment Program (CCPP). All child care providers in Mississippi are now required by the federal reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act to complete health and safety informational sessions by October 1 to remain eligible for the voucher program. To date, Mississippi has registered more than 6,000 providers over three weekends at one of the 15 training sessions offered throughout the state by certified employees of Mississippi's community college system. **To register for the final health and safety session at no cost, visit ccptraining.mdhs.ms.gov, or call toll free 1-844-402-2889.**

During the first two weeks of October, each provider will receive an e-mail from the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The majority of these letters will congratulate providers on completing the health and safety informational session and explain that they are eligible to receive funds from the Child Care Payment Program. If there are any instances in which the assessment will need to be retaken, further instructions will be included in the email correspondence from MDHS.

Everyone is to be applauded for their effort in participating in these sessions that not only aid Mississippi in meeting new federal requirements but also strengthen our workforce and provide safer and healthier environments for all our children.



The final health and safety informational session will be held Friday, September 30, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Mississippi's Consumer Education Web Site Goes Live October 1

The consumer education website will go live October 1 and will provide information that will both assist families with making decisions about child care providers and serve as a clearinghouse of resources that support the development of children. MDHS has collaborated with partner agencies, community service organizations, and child care providers to establish a consumer-friendly website that will be a one-stop resource. For example, families will be able to view licensing information and quality reports online. In addition, they can check to see if they are eligible for other programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Providing families comprehensive access to all of the programs available allows parents to make more informed decisions about their children's development.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families Announces Final Rule for Child Care and Development Fund

On Sept. 23, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced its final program rules for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). This rule establishes a baseline for health, safety, and quality across states to ensure children are protected and are in nurturing environments that support their healthy growth and development. Mississippi is proud of the accomplishments of child care providers and early childhood stakeholders in meeting the federal requirements.

The requirements include:

- **Annual monitoring for both CCPP-approved licensed and license-exempt providers.**
- **Health and safety requirements and ongoing training on 10 basic topics to which the final rule adds “reporting and recognition of child abuse and neglect” and “child development training” and points to Caring for Our Children Basics as a recommended baseline for minimum health and safety standards.**
- **Comprehensive background checks for child care staff members of all licensed and CCPP-approved providers.**
- **Allowing provisional hiring under certain conditions, aligned with Head Start provisional hiring requirements that include important protections for children.**

2016 Timeline

March 11	Mississippi Department of Human Services submitted the state's CCDF plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
April/May	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reviewed the plan.
June	Three workgroups met to gather feedback from statewide stakeholders to assist MDHS in fulfilling federal requirements.
June 28	A letter approving the state plan was received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
July-September	The state will work toward meeting immediate federal requirements during this timeframe.
August 2	MDHS submitted the revised CCPP policy manual to the Secretary of State's Office in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. For submission of comments, the public was directed to this e-mail address: ccdfcomments@mdhs.ms.gov .
August 22	A public hearing regarding the CCPP policy manual was held at 5:30 PM in room 145 of the Woolfolk building in Jackson, Mississippi.
August 27	Last day for public comments on the CCPP policy manual.
August 27-29	CCPP policy manual was revised to address public comments.
August 30	Revised draft of the CCPP policy manual was filed with the Secretary of State's Office.
September 29	Secretary of State's Office to codify final rules.
October 1	Effective date of new CCPP policy manual to begin program year.

Contact

For more information about the CCDF State Plan, please visit <http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/early-childhood-care-development/child-care-resources/ccdf-state-plan/>.

For questions or additional comments, please contact Cathy Sykes at Cathy.Sykes@mdhs.ms.gov.